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OGC 61-0731

61-3634

3 May 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Hearing

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Alexander Schnee, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of State, sat through the whole hearing on 2 May and his comments are as follows.
3. From conversations he had in the Committee rooms on Saturday, 29 April, he had expected a more antagonistic approach and a claim that in the Cuban operation CIA had exceeded its statutory charter. He detected no such antagonism during the actual hearing, and the possible violation of our charter was only alluded to once when Senator Symington noted that we did not get the specific approval for the operation from the National Security Council as such and this was in violation of law. Mr. Schnee felt, as do I, that the detailed description of the coordination and participation involved served to eliminate this point.
4. Mr. Schnee felt that some of the Senators still felt the landings were badly planned from a military point of view but were not pointing particularly at the Agency in view of the participation of the Joint Chiefs. Senators Long and Capehart seemed strongest on this point. He felt that Senator Fulbright still had a question in his mind applying both to Secretary Rusk's and our appearance which might be expressed as "How can you think as you say you do now when you thought so differently when you approved the project?".

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5. Mr. Schnee noted two discrepancies between the Secretary's testimony and our own. Secretary Rusk said that the whole operation depended on a popular uprising whereas we had propounded a different theory of gradual accruals to the landing forces. Secondly, Dick Bissell was pressed somewhat on the small size and equipment of the expedition and explained it as being necessary to be consistent with a truly Cuban expedition not participated in by the U. S. This is inconsistent only in that the Secretary was not pressed for an explanation along these lines.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

cc: DDCI
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